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From: Cohen, Lori
Sent: Mon 4/6/2015 9:05:23 PM
Subject: Portland Harbor - update

Hi Dennis, please forward to Dick Pedersen -

Please see this note below that we are sending out on behalf of Jim Woolford re the Portland Harbor project schedule. Per prior conversations, you are aware that we were considering these changes. EPA staff will be sharing this with the TCT and MOU partners today, and with the LWG, other stakeholders and the Congressional delegation staff tomorrow afternoon. I just wanted you to be aware of the this communication and ask you to hold it close until we can share this with the other parties. Thank you.

Message from Jim Woolford:

Recently, Dick Pederson, Dennis McLerran and myself had the opportunity to have meetings here in Washington with members from the Oregon Congressional Delegation Portland. They were united in the desire to make sure that the current process to reach a final remedy decision on the Portland Harbor site proceed as expeditiously as possible. This is important because people and the ecosystem continue to be at risk. That is a goal I believe we all share.

As you know, EPA headquarters is working very closely with Region 10 on the Feasibility Study and on a conceptual remedy for the Portland Harbor site. Together we have formed an integrated team of EPA staff from both HQ and the regional office. The Regional office retains the lead for development of the RI/FS and Proposed Plan but with extensive interaction and assistance from my HQ office. Having HQ staff on this team attending and participating in both internal and external technical meetings allows EPA to engage more efficiently and rapidly to resolve issues. This framework will, I believe, expedite resolution of issues, questions, concerns, etc. with the state, tribes and LWG as it will eliminate the separate back and forth within EPA that frequently occurs at these types of sites.

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I am also looking closely at the schedule and I want to confirm that EPA is committed to presenting a conceptual remedy to the National Remedy Review Board in November 2015, and getting the RI/FS completed and a Proposed Plan out for public comment in 2016. The NRRB meeting will be held in Portland and we are working on the precise dates in mid-November.

While this date is more than 6 months away, it is an aggressive date. I have met with staff from my office and the Region 10 office to identify efficiencies and we looked specifically at the Feasibility Study schedule to ensure we will be ready for the National Remedy Review Board in November. To date the Region has shared first section 1 of the FS and then later section 2 of the FS and taken comments on each section independently. This has occurred first with state and tribes and then with the LWG. Sections 3 and 4 remain to be shared. Each of the sections that have been shared to date have generated comments, questions and concerns, many of which arise because it is difficult to determine how information that is being portrayed in one section will be used in later sections. Certainly, there are connections between the sections that need to be understood and appreciated. However, the current piecemeal process makes it difficult to see the overall picture.

To this end, to facilitate review and expedite production of the FS, I have asked Region 10 to provide the final two sections of the FS together so reviewers can see the entire document and see how the overall sections fit together. EPA's goal at this time is to provide Sections 3 and 4 to all key stakeholders no later than July 29, 2015. There will be a 45-day review and comment resolution period on all sections of the FS, including Sections 3 and 4, which will take us into early September. I would also ask that parties that have significant comments or concerns provide those to EPA by August 21. Everyone will still have the full 30 days to provide a fuller set of comments, but to the extent we can see the major issues earlier, it will help inform the conceptual remedy which we are planning to share on Sept. 19.

I will be attending the April 21 meetings in Portland and can be available to discuss this approach in person at that time. For more details on the schedule, please see below.

Sincerely,

Jim Woolford, Director

Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation

Provide FS Sections 3 and 4 to stakeholders	7/29/2015
TCT and LWG Review/Resolution	7/29/15 – 9/14/15
Provide Conceptual Remedy to stakeholders	9/19/15
Info to NRRB/CSTAG from stakeholders	10/19/15
NRRB/CSTAG Meeting	Week of 11/16/15

Jim Woolford, Director

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